

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A card connector for holding either of first and second cards in a connector housing so that contact pads of the card engage contact terminals arranged in a base plate of the connector housing, the card connector being configured to hold a first card having an upper body portion, a lower body portion formed narrower than the upper body portion and having recessed portions on a bottom surface ~~in a front side area thereof, and~~ contact pads provided in said recessed portions, ~~and stepped portions formed along both side edges of the card by a bottom surface of said upper body portion and a bottom surface of said lower body portion,~~

said card connector further being configured to hold a second card having a card body portion having substantially the same size as the upper body portion of the first card, and contact pads arranged on a bottom surface of the card body portion at substantially the same horizontal position as the contact pads of the first card, the card connector comprising:

first and second side walls;

a pair of guide grooves, each formed in a corresponding one of said first and second side walls of the connector housing to support the side edges of the upper body portion of the first card and side edges of the card body portion of the second card and thereby guide the first or second card as the first or second card is inserted or extracted;

a first space defined by said pair of guide grooves;

a second space defined by said first and second side walls;

a base plate; and

a plurality of contact terminals arranged in said base plate adapted to electrically couple with the contacts formed on the bottom surface of said first and second cards, wherein

no portion of said base plate extends into said second space,

said second space is located below said first space, and

said second space is configured to accommodate the lower body portion of said first card.

2. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein said first and second side walls are formed at such locations that said first and second side walls can guide the side surfaces of the lower body portion of the first card.

3. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 1, further comprising:

an eject mechanism to eject the card; and

an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of the first card when the first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of the second card when the second card is inserted, the braking piece applying a braking force to the first or second card when the first or second card is ejected.

4. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 3, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of one of said pair of guide grooves and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said one of said pair of guide grooves.

5. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card.

6. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and which extends into the underside of the top plate.

7. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 1, further comprising:

an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of said first card when said first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of said second card when said second card is inserted, the braking piece applying a braking force to said first or second card in a card extraction direction.

8. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 7, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of one of said pair of guide grooves and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said one of said pair of guide grooves.

9. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 7, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of the first card.

10. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 7, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and receding in the height direction.

11. (Currently Amended) A card connector for holding either of first and second cards in a connector housing so that contact pads of the card engage contact terminals arranged in a base plate of the connector housing, the card connector housing being configured to hold a first card having an upper body portion, a lower body portion formed narrower than the upper body portion and having recessed portions in a front-side area thereof, and contact pads provided in said recessed portions, ~~and stepped portions formed along both side edges of the card by a bottom surface of said upper body portion and a bottom surface of said lower body portion,~~

said card connector further being configured to hold a second card having a card body portion having substantially a same size as the upper body portion of the first card, and contact pads arranged on a bottom surface of the card body portion at substantially the same horizontal positions as the contact pads of the first card, the card connector comprising:

first and second side walls;

a pair of guide grooves, each formed in a corresponding one of said first and second side walls of the connector housing to support the side edges of the upper body portion of the first card and side edges of the card body portion of the second card and thereby guide the first or second card as the first or second card is inserted or extracted;

a first space defined by said pair of guide grooves;

a second space defined by said first and second side walls; and

an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of the first card when the first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of the second card when the second card is inserted, wherein

no portion of said base plate extends into said second space,

said second space is located below said first space,

said second space is configured to accommodate the lower body portion of said first card, and

a displacement of the elastic braking piece remains about the same, when the first or second card is inserted.

12. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein said first and second side walls are formed at such locations that said first and second side walls can guide the side surfaces of the lower body portion of the first card.

13. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 11, further comprising an eject mechanism to eject the card.

14. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of one of said pair of guide grooves and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said one of said pair of guide grooves.

15. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card.

16. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and receding in the height direction.

17. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 11, wherein the elastic braking piece applying a braking force to said first or second card in a card extraction direction.

18. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 17, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of one of said pair of guide grooves and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said one of said pair of guide grooves.

19. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 17, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of the first card.

20. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 17, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and receding in the height direction.

21. (Currently Amended) A card connector for holding either of first and second cards in a connector housing so that contact pads of the card engage contact terminals arranged in a base plate of the connector housing, the card connector comprising:

first and second side walls;

a pair of guide grooves formed in said first and second side walls;

a base plate and a plurality of contact terminals arranged in said base plate adapted to electrically couple with the contacts formed on the bottom surface of said first and second cards;

a first space defined by said pair of guide grooves;

a second space defined by said first and second side walls, wherein

the first and second space are configured to receive a first card, said first card having an upper body portion, a lower body portion formed narrower than the upper body portion, and having recessed portions on a bottom surface ~~in a front side area thereof, and~~ contact pads provided in said recessed portions, ~~and stepped portions formed along both side edges of the card by a bottom surface of said upper body portion and a bottom surface of said lower body portion, and~~

said first space is configured to receive a second card, said second card having a card body portion having substantially the same thickness as the upper body portion of the first card, and contact pads arranged on a bottom surface of the card body portion at substantially the same horizontal position as the contact pads of the first card, and
no portion of said base plate extends into said second space.

22. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 21, wherein said first and second side walls are formed at such locations that said first and second side walls can guide the side surfaces of the lower body portion of the first card.

23. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 21, further comprising:

an eject mechanism to eject the card; and

an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of the first card when the first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of the second card when the second card is inserted, the braking piece applying a braking force to the first or second card when the first or second card is ejected.

24. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 23, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of one of said pair of guide grooves and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said one of said pair of guide grooves.

25. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 21, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card.

26. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 21, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and which extends into the underside of the top plate.

27. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 21, further comprising:

an elastic braking piece arranged at such a position that the elastic braking piece engages the bottom surface of the upper body portion of said first card when said first card is inserted and engages the bottom surface of the card body portion of said second card when said second card is inserted, the braking piece applying a braking force to said first or second card in a card extraction direction.

28. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 27, wherein said elastic braking piece is secured to a position which is in a far part of one of said pair of guide grooves and which is a predetermined distance lower than a lower wall of said one of said pair of guide grooves.

29. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 27, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with an opening having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of the first card.

30. (Previously Presented) A card connector according to claim 27, wherein a housing top plate that forms upper walls of said pair of guide grooves is formed with a recess having a width larger than that of the lower body portion of said first card and receding in the height direction.